

1                                   **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
2                                   **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

3       RYAN OUSDALE,

4                   Plaintiff

5       v.

6       TARGET CORPORATION,

7                   Defendant

Case No.: 2:17-cv-02749-APG-NJK

**Order Denying Motions to Seal**

[ECF Nos. 59, 61]

8           Ryan Ousdale sues Target Corporation for injuries he sustained when he fell off a toilet  
9 seat in a Target store's bathroom. Ousdale moves to seal some exhibits attached to his response  
10 to Target's motion for summary judgment and his motion for spoliation sanctions. Ousdale filed  
11 both briefs and all attached exhibits under seal even though the motions seek to seal only a few  
12 exhibits each. And while Ousdale states in his briefs that he filed the subject exhibits under seal  
13 (*See, e.g.*, ECF Nos. 60-5, 60-6), he did not. Thus, I have no idea how to evaluate the request to  
14 seal them. Ousdale moves to seal because Target has designated these exhibits confidential  
15 under the stipulated protective order. But that does not justify sealing the entire filing, nor does  
16 it necessarily justify sealing particular exhibits.

17           Generally, the public has a right to inspect and copy judicial records. *Kamakana v. City &*  
18 *Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006). Such records are presumptively  
19 publicly accessible. *Id.* A party seeking to seal a judicial record bears the burden of overcoming  
20 this strong presumption. *Id.* In the case of dispositive motions, the party seeking to seal the  
21 record must articulate compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings that outweigh  
22 the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure, such as the public  
23 interest in understanding the judicial process. *Id.* at 1178-79 (alteration and internal quotation

1 marks and citations omitted). Among the compelling reasons which may justify sealing a record  
2 are when court files might have become a vehicle for improper purposes, such as the use of  
3 records to gratify private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release  
4 trade secrets. *Id.* at 1179 (quotation omitted). However, avoiding a litigant's embarrassment,  
5 incrimination, or exposure to further litigation will not, without more, compel the court to seal its  
6 records. *Id.*

7 I will allow the filings to remain sealed temporarily while the parties confer about what,  
8 if any, portions of the opposition, motion, and exhibits should be sealed. If any party determines  
9 that any portion of the filings should remain sealed, that party must file a motion to seal along  
10 with a proposed redacted version of the filing by August 21, 2019. Otherwise, the sealed  
11 documents will be unsealed. Any motion to seal must set forth compelling reasons to support  
12 sealing those portions.

13 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that plaintiff Ryan Ousdale's motions to seal (**ECF Nos.**  
14 **59, 61**) are **DENIED**.

15 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the parties shall meet and confer about what, if any,  
16 portions of the opposition, motion, and exhibits should be sealed. If any party determines that  
17 any portion of the filing should remain sealed, that party must file a motion to seal along with a  
18 proposed redacted version of the filing. Any motion to seal must set forth compelling reasons to  
19 support sealing those portions.

20 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if a motion to seal is not filed by any party by August  
21 21, 2019, Ousdale's opposition and the attached exhibits (ECF No. 60) and his motion for  
22 sanctions and the attached exhibits (ECF No. 62) will be unsealed.  
23

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, by August 9, 2019, Ousdale must file under seal the  
2 exhibits he omitted from ECF Nos. 60 and 62, pending a determination on whether any  
3 documents shall remain under seal.

4 DATED this 31st day of July, 2019.



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ANDREW P. GORDON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE